This one's coming to an end

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by acatbyanyothername

Summary

Jack Crawford is not a man accustomed to changing his mind easily

Notes

My first fill for the Hannibal bingo. The prompt was Jack Crawford.

This is a short fic and a character study of Jack Crawford who often gets the short end of the stick in fics;

Jack Crawford is a man steady in his convictions. He has to be when faced with horrors of what men are capable of. The Law is absolute, criminals should be stopped. It's as simple as that. He's not above using people around him but he will never stab someone in the back. Secrets don't have their place in his world.

Will Graham is different. There are more than just shadows lurking behind those eyes. Smoke and mirrors. Nobody really knows what goes inside Will Graham's head except Will Graham. Jack had needed him, pushed him until he broke some would say. Jack was of the opinion that what broke was the front Will Graham put up for the world to see and for him to hide behind.

He wasn't as surprised as he should have been learning Will Graham was the copycat killer. And now the man is in prison. As he should be. While the Baltimore State Hospital for the Criminally Insane isn't a prison per se, it holds the same purpose. Holding the monsters at bay.

What surprises Jack is how vehemntly Graham denies being behind the murders. He's disappointed that the man keeps pointing accusing fingers at Hannibal Lecter. The man is a friend and an excellent help to his unit. Jack is furious that Graham sent someone to murder Doctor Lecter and it only reinforces his conviction that Will Graham is a dangerous man indeed.

Then Jack gets called to a parking lot. It's the Ripper again. There is no mistaking the artistry of it, though it is mostly lost on him. Not that he can't appreciate art, but the Ripper's art is a taunt, making a fool out of the FBI. Why the Ripper feels the need to make art out of corpses is a mystery.

In this case, the Ripper turned his victim into a blossoming tree, roots breaking the ground of the parking lot, branches extending from the victim's arms, and bouquets of flowers filling the man, whose chest and abdominal cavity had been cut open like a pig.

As always when he finds himself on a Ripper crime scene, Jack wonders who the Ripper could be. It's become personal ever since Miriam Lass. Jack won't rest until the Ripper is safely behind bars, or dead. Still there are more pressing matters to attend to.

Pragmatism reasserts itself at the forefront of Jack's mind. They will need to analyse the body and he can't set up an entire lab in a parking lot. The body has to be moved, and Jack knows it's only the beginning of his troubles.

He's right. Doctor Lecter refuses to help, despite the fact the man is his best shot now that Will is gone. He has proven his usefulness time and time again since Will Graham's imprisonment, stepping seamlessly in the other man's shoes. Yet Jack is aware that while

Beverly was alive, she went to Will to help with the cases. Turning a blind eye to it was the right thing to do if it produced results. And it did.

Will Graham's words have a way to get under Jack's skin and live there, dark unsettling whispers so at odds with Jack's neatly organised mind. His words about Doctor Lecter clamour for attention when Chilton plays a recording of a conversation between Will and Doctor Gideon. Maybe it's time he listens to Will Graham again.

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